

Message Text

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FTC:J T FISCHBACH
EUR/CAN:R CASAGRANDE
L/EB:S BENSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS STATE 166502

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, GW

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: FTC CONTACT WITH LINDE, A.G.

1. THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT QUOTE IS CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY NON-PUBLIC INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACQUISITION BY LIQUID AIR CORPORATION, AN AMERICAN FIRM, OF VARIOUS ASSETS OF CHEMETRON CORPORATION, A SUBSIDIARY OF ALLEGHENY LUDLUM CO., ALSO AN AMERICAN COMPANY. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER, THE STAFF HAS CONTACTED LINDE, A.G., OF HOLLORIE GELSHREUTH IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. LINDE WAS ANOTHER POSSIBLE PURCHASER OF THE CHEMETRON ASSETS AND IS A POTENTIAL WITNESS IN THE CASE. UNQUOTE.

2. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND THE FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE OF THIS ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1976 US/FRG ANTITRUST COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

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3. JOHN FISCHBACH, OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE OF THE FTC WILL BE VISITING THE FEDERAL CARTEL OFFICE IN WEST BERLIN ON JULY 6 AND 7 AND WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MATTER AT THAT TIME. VANCE

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